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Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Press Releases — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

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September 1990

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL Selects New Head of Food and Nutrition Center

Beltsville, MD (August 1, 1990) — Sandra Facinoli has been selected to be the Coordinator of National Agricultural Library's (NAL) Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC).

FNIC is one of 15 information centers established and maintained by NAL to provide current information on critically important agricultural issues. FNIC is a source for a comprehensive collection of food and human nutrition materials including books, audio-visual materials, reports, journals, and computer software. FNIC users range from the general public to teachers, professors and researchers, food service managers and elected officials.

Since 1988, Facinoli has been Coordinator of NAL's Youth Development Information Center (YDIC) and a Technical Information Specialist at the library. She will continue to manage the Youth Development Information Center, in addition to assuming her FNIC duties, until a new YDIC Coordinator is named.

"We are delighted that Sandy is moving into this important position," said NAL Director Joe Howard. "She has proven herself to be an excellent administrator and I am confident she will continue her outstanding efforts with our Food and Nutrition Information Center."

Prior to joining NAL Facinoli was a County Extension Director and Home Economist with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service. She has a Masters degree in Nutrition Education from Hood College in Frederick, MD, and a B.A. degree in Home Economics Education from Shepherd College in Shepardstown, West Virginia.

A native of Maryland, Fascinoli taught food and nutrition to middle and high school students in the state for five years, worked as a consultant to the American Home Economics Association and operated a photography business with

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her husband in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

The National Agricultural Library is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the foremost agricultural library in the world, containing nearly two million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States. In addition to providing a full range of services related to information and document delivery, NAL has established fifteen information centers which attempt to keep abreast of new developments and literature and provide services on specific subjects currently of greatest interest to the international agricultural community. In addition to food and nutrition, and youth development, subjects covered by NAL's information centers include agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, critical agricultural materials, family, horticulture, rural development, technology transfer, water quality, and others.

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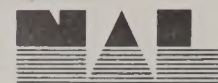
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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

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NAL Sponsors Workshops on Agricultural Databases

Beltsville, MD, (August 7, 1990) — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released its fiscal year 1991 schedule of training courses for its master database, called AGRICOLA, and for the USDA's Current Research Information System (CRIS).

AGRICOLA, which stands for AGRICultural OnLine Access, is a computer database containing bibliographic records of agricultural literature from throughout the world. Much of this literature is available at NAL. NAL is offering Basic (three days) and Advanced (one day) AGRICOLA workshops.

CRIS is the computer-based documentation and reporting system of USDA for ongoing publicly supported agricultural and forestry research in the United States. The CRIS workshop lasts for one day and participants should have experience in online retrieval.

The workshops are free to USDA and state land-grant personnel and to employees of other federal, state and local government agencies. Other participants pay tuition of \$150 for three-day workshops and \$50 for one-day workshops.

Workshops are held at NAL, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard in Beltsville, Maryland, or at the D.C. Reference Center located at USDA, 14th and Independence, Washington, D.C.

More information on these workshops is available by contacting:

Educational Programs Unit
National Agricultural Library, Room 111
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Telephone: (301) 344-1204 (AGRICOLA) or (301) 344-3850 (CRIS).

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The training schedule follows:

Workshop	Dates	Location
AGRICOLA, Basic	Oct. 1-3, 1990	Washington, D.C.
CRIS	Oct. 4	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Oct. 5	
AGRICOLA, Basic	Nov. 26-28	NAL, Beltsville
CRIS	Nov. 29	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Nov. 30	
AGRICOLA, Basic	Jan. 28-30, 1991	NAL, Beltsville
CRIS	Jan. 31	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Feb. 1	
AGRICOLA, Basic	Mar. 11-13	Washington, D.C.
CRIS	Mar. 14	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Mar. 15	
AGRICOLA, Basic	April 8-10	Washington, D.C.
CRIS	April 11	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	April 12	
AGRICOLA, Basic	May 20-22	NAL, Beltsville
CRIS	May 23	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	May 24	
AGRICOLA, Basic	July 15-17	NAL, Beltsville
CRIS	July 18	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	July 19	
AGRICOLA, Basic	Sept. 16-18	Washington, D.C.
CRIS	Sept. 19	
AGRICOLA, Advanced	Sept. 20	

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Contact: Brian Norris
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University of Illinois at Chicago Produces Animal Welfare Manual under NAL Cooperative Agreement

Beltsville, MD (August 8, 1990) — A manual providing basic knowledge on the use and handling of laboratory animals has been produced by the University of Illinois at Chicago under a cooperative agreement with the Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

Essentials for Animal Research: A Primer for Research Personnel was written by veterinarians and veterinary professors at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is based on a graduate-level course at the University. The course, also called "Essentials for Animal Research," seeks to teach students their responsibilities when using animals in research. The authors, all of whom are on the University staff, are B. T. Bennett, Ph.D., D.V.M.; M. J. Brown, D.V.M., M.S. (this fall, Dr. Brown will become the director of Laboratory Animal Care at Dartmouth University); and J. C. Schofield, B.V. Sc., M.R.C.V.S.

According to the authors, in addition to creating an awareness in researchers of the responsibilities they assume when using laboratory animals, the manual also provides a "basic understanding of the regulatory process and the means by which compliance (to animal welfare laws) can be assured...and an understanding of the basic principles of controlling pain and distress (in laboratory animals)..."

Quantities of up to five copies of the manual are available from:

Animal Welfare Information Center
National Agricultural Library
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

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More than five copies can be obtained, at the rate of \$4.00 per copy (prepaid), by contacting:

American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)
70 Timber Creek Drive, Suite 5
Memphis, TN 38018

The Animal Welfare Information Center is one of 15 information centers established by NAL to gather information on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to animal welfare, subjects covered include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, aquaculture, biotechnology, critical agricultural materials, family, food and nutrition, horticulture, rural development, technology transfer, water quality, youth development, and others.

The National Agricultural Library is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing nearly two million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

University of Arizona Produces Handbook on Rubber Plants under NAL and CSRS Cooperative Agreement

Beltsville, MD (August 9, 1990) — A handbook identifying and evaluating the economic potentials of natural rubber-producing plants for potential cultivation in the United States has been produced by the Office of Arid Lands Studies of the University of Arizona under a cooperative agreement with the Critical Agricultural Materials Information Center (CAMIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and the Office of Agricultural Industrial Materials of the Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS), U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Natural Rubber-Producing Plants for the United States was written by Janice E. Bowers at the Office of Arid Lands Studies. "This research report was undertaken to inventory rubber-producing plants and to assess their relative importance as potential commercial crops in establishing a domestic natural rubber industry," wrote Daniel Kugler, Acting Director of the Office of Agricultural Industrial Materials, CSRS, in his "Foreword." It is directed to the mission of accelerating "commercialization of non-food, non-feed industrial products from agricultural raw materials, both plant and animal. It is one of many programs which focus on providing U.S. farmers with alternative opportunities to traditional enterprises and practices in a changing domestic and global economy."

To obtain a copy of *Natural Rubber-Producing Plants for the United States*, send a self addressed label with the request to:

National Agricultural Library
Attn: Natural Rubber
Reference Branch, Room 111
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705

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The Critical Agricultural Materials Information Center is one of 15 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to critical agricultural materials, subjects covered include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, family, food and nutrition, horticulture, rural development, technology transfer, water quality, youth development, and others.

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Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL Develops Computer Training Program for Catalogers

Beltsville, MD (August 13, 1990) — In an important contribution to the field of library science, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) is developing a computer-based system that has the potential to decrease dramatically the time required to teach novices how to catalog library materials.

Called "CatTutor," the system is being developed by NAL working in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Wisconsin — Madison.

The CatTutor project is funded by an Apple Library of Tomorrow grant from Apple Computer, Inc. in Cupertino, California, and by a grant from the Council on Library Resources, a private, Washington, D.C.-based organization working to improve library services to the world.

"Teaching novices cataloging is an activity normally requiring intensive instruction of from six-months to two years," said Sarah Thomas, Associate Director for Technical Services, NAL. "CatTutor uses computer-aided instruction to reduce the time required by students to learn and teachers to teach library cataloging."

Thomas said libraries could use the training time saved to catalog more materials, thus improving access to the libraries' collections.

CatTutor uses hypertext and computer graphics to provide instruction in the basics of descriptive cataloging and related bibliographic concepts. Hypertext is a feature that allows users of the computer program to gain explanations of unfamiliar terms or retrieve related concepts simply by pressing a key.

"At the heart of CatTutor is the desire to free the instructor from the repetitious introductory cataloging material as well as to provide each novice with consistent instruction in the fundamentals of cataloging," Thomas said.

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Specifically, CatTutor will familiarize the user with the specialized vocabulary of cataloging by using the vocabulary in the instructional text and providing definitions; provide links between the instructional text and the guidelines as they appear in printed publications; simulate a cataloging environment by providing graphic representations of items being cataloged; and lead the trainee through the creation of actual cataloging records.

The prototype CatTutor program will be tested beginning November 1990 at the University of Pittsburgh Libraries, the University of Wisconsin—Madison, and NAL. Additional evaluations will be conducted at library schools. NAL will prepare a final report on the CatTutor project early in 1991.

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Refined Aquaculture Computer System Available from NAL

Beltsville, MD (August 14, 1990) — The second generation of a computerized information project on African aquaculture, called "REGIS II," has been completed by the National Agricultural Library (NAL), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

REGIS II (for *REG*ional Information System for African Aquaculture II) is computer software with a hypermedia-based intelligence that gives quick and easy access to information on African aquaculture. Hypermedia allows users of the REGIS II system to browse rapidly through text non-linearly and to gain explanations of unfamiliar terms on a computer screen simply by pressing a key.

Deborah Hanfman, the NAL REGIS II project manager and coordinator of NAL's Aquaculture Information Center, said REGIS II and its predecessor, the original REGIS, were developed to encourage developing African nations to cultivate aquaculture as a source of food and as a commercial revenue-generating enterprise.

"REGIS and REGIS II are simple-to-use computer systems that describe, with diagrams, pictures, and easy-to-follow text, aquaculture in the African region," Hanfman said. "The agencies involved in REGIS believe these projects can help tremendously in bringing together comprehensive information on a high-interest subject. This information will allow better agricultural decision making in the region and will help enrich African countries' industrial bases and standards of living."

The core of information in REGIS II is the full text of *A Regional Survey of the Aquaculture Sector in Africa, South of the Sahara*. The survey was done by the Aquaculture Development and Coordination Programme, a joint project of FAO and the United Nations Development Programme.

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One of the first of a new breed of computer "expert systems" being developed in the world, REGIS II advises users on both small-scale and commercial aquaculture projects. REGIS II text and graphics can be accessed through a table of contents, by individual country name, or by species of fish.

"REGIS II is a more powerful version of the original REGIS," said Joseph Howard, NAL director. "REGIS II offers greater information online and allows key-word searching. I am proud that NAL has taken such an instrumental role in the development of hypermedia and expert systems. Our people are on the cutting edge of this technology."

REGIS II requires an IBM-compatible computer with hard-disk storage capacity of 3.0 Megabytes, 640K memory, EGA or VGA graphics capability, and optional CD-ROM drive and modem for access to certain databases. A computer mouse is optional equipment.

A limited supply of REGIS II is available, free of charge, from the National Agricultural Library. The address is:

Aquaculture Information Center, Room 304
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Telephone: (301) 344-3704

The Aquaculture Information Center is one of 15 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to aquaculture, subjects covered include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, biotechnology, critical agricultural materials, family, food and nutrition, horticulture, rural development, technology transfer, water quality, youth development, and others.

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Contact: Brian Norris
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NAL Catalog of Famed Entomologist's Papers Available

Beltsville, MD (August 16, 1990) — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has published a register of the papers of noted American entomologist Charles Valentine Riley (1843-1895).

Considered by many scientists as the father of modern economic entomology, Riley wrote extensively on the biology of insects in America. He was an accomplished artist as well, and painted and sketched countless insect illustrations.

The register lists Riley papers located at NAL and at 22 other institutions throughout the world. This is the first time that this information has been made available in one source, according to Judith J. Ho and Willie Yuille, the register's compilers and editors. Ho is an NAL employee and Yuille works for the University of Maryland College of Library Science.

To obtain a copy of *The Papers of Charles Valentine Riley: A Register of His Papers in the National Agricultural Library*, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

Special Collections, 14th Floor
Attn: Riley Papers
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705

"Even for those not interested in bugs, Riley was a fascinating man," said Dr. Alan Fusonie, Head of Special Collections at NAL. "He was born in London, England, but immigrated to Illinois and lived most of his life in the United States. He was a farm laborer, an agricultural reporter, an artist, an entomologist, and the first chairman of the United States Entomological Commission, popularly called 'the Grasshopper Commission.'"

"He worked to help American pioneer families combat the locust plagues that caused starvation in the northwest

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territories in the 1870s. And, his productivity as a writer is all but legendary; in his 53 years of life he authored over 2,400 publications.”

Fusonic said that the Riley collection at NAL focuses on the history of economic entomology and the development of biological control of insects harmful to crops, and on Riley’s energetic efforts related to these areas in the last quarter of the 19th century.

“Riley is also remembered for helping to save the California citrus industry by introducing the Australian Vedalia Beetle to combat scale insects,” Fusonie said. “And, he assisted in the rescue of the French wine industry from grape Phylloxera, an insect that destroys grapevine roots. For this, he received the Legion of Honor medal from the French government.”

Contained in the collection are Riley’s correspondence (including letters from evolutionist Charles Darwin), Riley’s unpublished lectures, his drawings, field notes, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other memorabilia. The collection contains ten archival boxes and 320 folders.

“These papers comprise an important collection of a significant nineteenth century figure, whose many contributions still affect modern scientific study and thought,” Fusonie said.

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Contact: Brian Norris
(301) 344-3778

NAL Seeks Interns for World Serials Project

Beltsville, MD (August 20, 1990) — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is seeking professional librarians as interns to work on a special agricultural project. The length of the assignment will be from six weeks to one year.

The persons selected for the internships will assist in researching and compiling *The World List of Agricultural Serials*, a joint effort between NAL and CAB International to develop a comprehensive list of over 50,000 agriculturally related serials from throughout the world. The positions are at NAL in Beltsville, Maryland.

NAL will provide training, office space and the necessary equipment for the interns. However, those persons will need to provide their own living expenses.

"These internships offer a professionally challenging opportunity for librarians interested in learning more about NAL and its programs," said Dr. Sarah Thomas, NAL's Associate Director for Technical Services. Specifically, Thomas said interns will gain experience working with NAL's computer technology as well as NAL's computer research projects such as hypermedia databases, interactive video, and text digitizing. Contributing to *The World List of Agricultural Serials*, which NAL will produce on CD-ROM, should be particularly rewarding to the professional librarian, Thomas said.

"Once completed, *The World List* will serve as a verification source for document delivery, a reference aid for selection, and as a tool for eliminating unnecessary duplication in indexing coverage," she said.

The interns will verify and add titles to *The World List* and will concentrate in areas that will use specific expertise in particular subjects and languages.

"NAL internships are an excellent experience for librarians on sabbatical or for foreign librarians interested in

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visiting the United States," Thomas said. "Recently at NAL, a librarian from the People's Republic of China and a Louisiana State University librarian were interns working on various agriculturally related projects. They were delighted with the experienced they gained."

For more information contact:

Dr. Sarah E. Thomas
Associate Director for Technical Services
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Room 100
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris
(301) 344-3778

Volunteers Needed for NAL Laser Disc Project

Beltsville, MD (August 22, 1990) — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is seeking volunteers to help produce a laser disc of 7,000 botanical illustrations from the Pomological Watercolor Art Collection of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"We need volunteers to photograph images and create bibliographic records for this unique and valuable collection," said Joseph H. Howard, NAL Director. "The creation of the laser disc and a corresponding database finding aid will allow widespread use and study of this important collection and will aid in the preservation of the original watercolors, some of which are on acid paper."

Howard said NAL staff will provide the required training and technical assistance to the volunteers. Hours and days are flexible, from Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Possible academic credits for library students may be available.

The National Agricultural Library offers a pleasant working environment, free parking, and snack facilities. It is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

Interested persons should contact:

Dr. Alan Fusonie, Head
Special Collections, 14th Floor
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Or call: (301) 344-3876

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